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REMARKS

Amendments to claims 2, 3, and 41-44 are to change claim dependency. Claims 2 and 3 have also been amended to bring the language of these claims with their respective base claims. No new matter has been added.

I. Allowed claims

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 30-40 and 60-62.

II. Claim restriction

In response to the claim restriction, claims 45-59 and 63-66 have been canceled without prejudice to pursue them in a related application.

III. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,370,255 (Schaub). Independent claim 1 has been canceled. With respect to new claim 67, Applicant respectfully notes that in order to sustain a claim rejection under § 102, each of the claim elements must be found, either expressly or inherently, in the cited reference.

Claim 67 recites a signal processor that is adapted to generate a frequency warped signal from an input signal, said signal processor further being adapted to process said frequency warped signal according to a hearing impairment correction signal processing algorithm, to thereby generate a hearing impairment corrected frequency warped signal. Schaub does not disclose or

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suggest such processor. Rather, Schaub discloses a processing system having a mic 1, a signal converter 2, a high-pass filter 3, a delay unit 6, a filter 7, a signal converter 8, an amplifier 9, and a transducer 10, which makes up the main branch of the processing system (figure 1). Schaub also discloses a bark filter 12 in a side branch that is configured to obtain a control parameter Ψ from a warped signal (figures 1 and 2). The control parameter is used to update coefficients of a lattice filter 7 in the main signal path (figure 1, and column 4, lines 26-50). Notably, in Schaub, the warping is performed in the side branch only for the purpose of updating coefficients in the filter 7 in the main branch. As such, the warped signal are not further processed according to a hearing impairment correction signal processing algorithm, much less, processed by a hearing impairment correction signal processing algorithm to thereby generate a hearing impairment corrected frequency warped signal. For at least the foregoing reason, claim 67 and its dependent claims are believed allowable over Schaub.

Claim 68 recites that the signal processor is configured to perform at least part of a signal processing in a frequency domain. Schaub also does not disclose or suggest such processor. Rather, Schaub discloses processing signal entirely in a time domain. In particular, column 2, lines 52-55 of Schaub states, "In the method according to the invention, the processing of the acoustic signal takes place without Fourier transformation, i.e. completely in the time domain and also without subdivision into subband signals." Also, column 10, line 58 to column 11, line 2 states, "In summarizing, it can be stated that in the method according to the invention for the loudness-controlled processing of acoustic signals in sound processing equipment, an acoustic signal x to be processed is processed entirely in the time domain." As such, Schaub does not disclose or suggest

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the claimed processor, but in fact, teaches away from such processor. For these additional reasons, claim 68 is believed allowable over Schaub.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that, with entry of this amendment, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 849-4960.

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